REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 is amended by combining with claims 2-9 and 12, as the Examiner's generic concept, and deleting methyl group from R1. Therefore, the amionthiol compound of claim 1 is not disclosed in the cited references. The word "compounds" in claim 1 is also corrected as "compound".

Claims 10-11 are cancelled as the result of an earlier division requirement. Claims 13 and 14 now depend on amended claim 1. Claims 1 and 13-19 are amended by deleting "acylated derivatives thereof" from the subject matter.

Regarding some description in detailed action, the applicant clarifies and explains as follows:

1. "II. Restriction/Election: ... (a) ... claims 1-9 and ..." should be "II. Restriction/Election: ... (a) ... claims 1-9, 12-19 and ...". Also, "(c) Claims 10-19 are withdrawn ..."should be "(c) Claims 10-11 are withdrawn ..."

2. The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, as the term "suitable ligands" in claim 1 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The applicant believes that the Examiner mistook the term "substitutable ligands" for "suitable ligands".

3. The compounds claimed by the applicant should not be anticipated by example 28 of the reference, *J. Org. Chem. Vol. 66 No. 25. 2001*, cited by the Examiner.

   (1) The example 28 includes two independent Bn groups respectively bonded with N.

   (2) In the present invention, R^3 and R^4 bonded with N can be alkyl of C1-C9 or form a cycle with each other. That is, the example 28 doesn't fall within the scope of claim 1 of the present invention.

4. The compounds claimed by the applicant are applied in a different field from the examples of the above reference.

   (1) The examples 27, 28 and 29 on page 8580 of this reference are provided for formation of δ-lactone 2e as shown in the reaction formula of Scheme 4.

(2) In the present invention, the aminothiol compounds are used to promote the reactivity of alkylmetal in the reaction with carbonyl compounds to produce chiral alcohol.

5. The compounds claimed by the applicant exhibit much better effect than the examples of the above reference.

(1) This reference also indicates the specific aminothiol was used in larger than 10% relative to the main reactants, but the yields of product are only 74% and 71% for examples 27 and 28, and only 25%, 21% and 29% enantiomeric excess are obtained for examples 27, 28 and 29.

(2) In the present invention, the specific aminothiol compounds are added in an amount less than 0.1% relative to the main reactants, and the yields higher than 95% with enantioselectivity higher than 99% were achieved.

6. The compounds claimed by the applicant also exhibit much better effect than examples of another reference, *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1, 1999, 2353-2365*, cited by the Examiner. The highest enantiomeric excess obtained by examples of this reference is 92%, but apparently less than 99% achieved by the compounds of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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